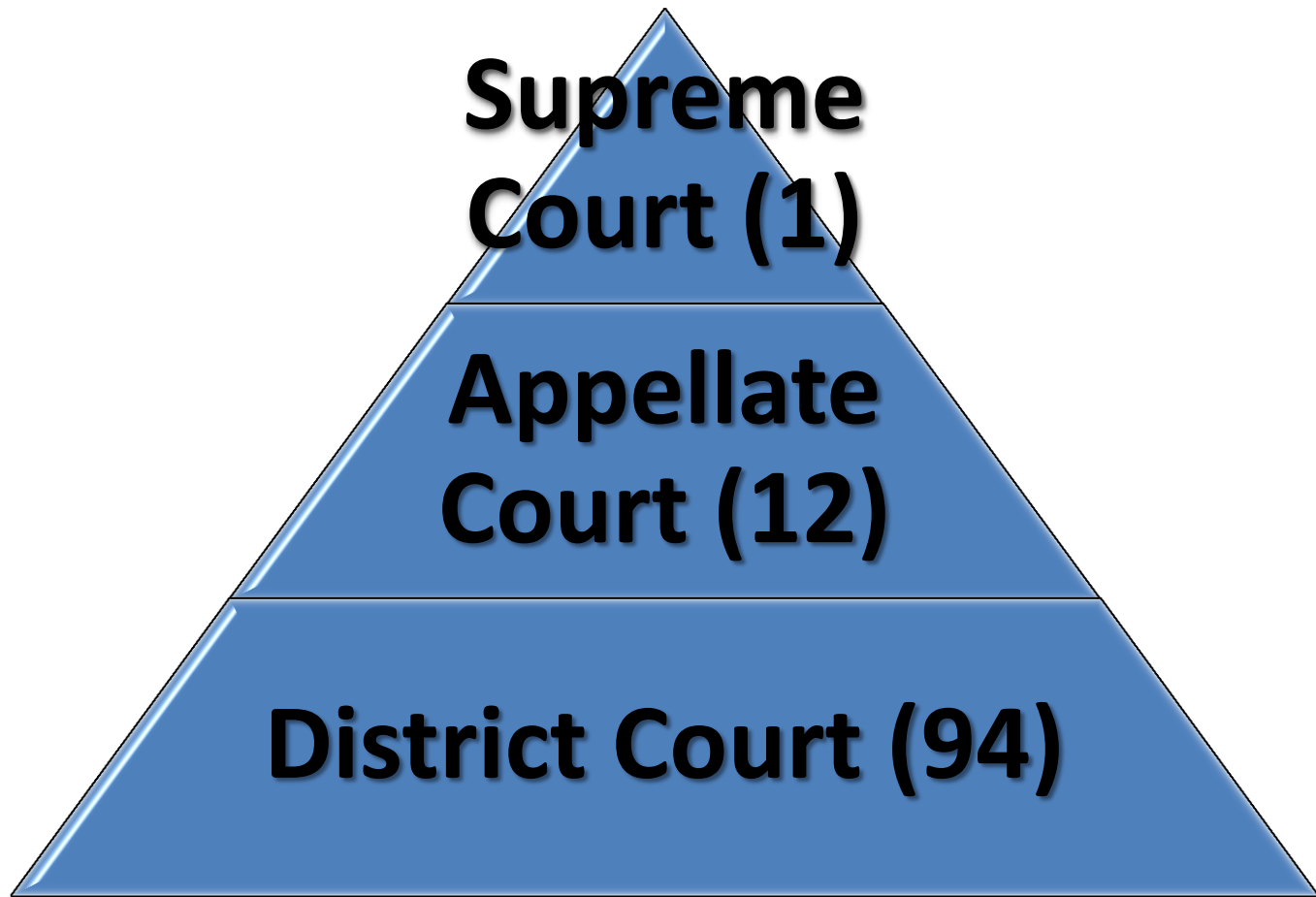




The Supreme Court



Federal Court Hierarchy





The Judicial Branch

- Headed by the Supreme Court





Qualifications for a Supreme Court Justice

- Age
 - None
- Citizenship/Residency
 - None
- Length of Term
 - Life
- Term Limit
 - One





How the Justices are selected

- All Federal Judges are appointed by the President and approved by the Senate





Jurisdiction

- The authority to act, hear a case, investigate, or make an arrest





Original Jurisdiction

- Courts with Original Jurisdiction
 - District Courts- ex: state crimes
 - Supreme Court- ex: cases between states



Appellate Jurisdiction

- **Description** - The authority to hear a case on appeals
- **Courts with Appellate Jurisdiction**
 - **Appellate courts**- hear cases from district level in which there was an error in the case
 - **Supreme Court**- hears cases from Appellate level



Limits on Congress and Court System

- **Ex post facto** – allowing a person to be punished for an action that was not against the law when it was committed. **(CAN'T)**
- **Writ of habeas corpus** – a court order that requires police to bring a prisoner to court to explain why they are holding the person. **(MUST)**
- **Bill of attainder** – a law that punishes a person accused of a crime without a trial or a fair hearing in court. **(CAN'T)**



Powers of the Supreme Court

- Can declare laws unconstitutional
- Settles disputes involving the United States
- Settles disputes between the states
- Can declare executive action unconstitutional

